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Informational hearing April 11, 2006: Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)

(FORM UPDATED: 08/11/2010)

WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE ...
PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE RECORDS

2005-06
(session year)

Assembly
(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

Committee on Forestry...

COMMITTEE NOTICES ...

- Committee Reports ... **CR**
- Executive Sessions ... **ES**
- Public Hearings ... **PH**

INFORMATION COLLECTED BY COMMITTEE FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSAL

- Appointments ... **Appt** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Clearinghouse Rules ... **CRule** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Hearing Records ... bills and resolutions (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
  (**ab** = Assembly Bill) (**ar** = Assembly Resolution) (**ajr** = Assembly Joint Resolution)
  (**sb** = Senate Bill) (**sr** = Senate Resolution) (**sjr** = Senate Joint Resolution)
- Miscellaneous ... **Misc**

* Contents organized for archiving by: Stefanie Rose (LRB) (July 2013)

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)
Background and Updated Information
Prepared March 21, 2006

EAB Background

* This is a wood boring beetle that devastates all ash that grows in the Midwest. It is not a major pest in its native range of northern China, eastern Russia, North Korea, South Korea and Japan. Therefore, little is know about it. EAB was first found in the U.S., in Michigan, in 2002. Indiana, Ohio and Ontario, Canada also have infestations. It is estimated that EAB has been in Michigan for about 12 years. A single outlying infestation costs at least one million dollars to eradicate. Federal dollars have declined from $43.5 million in 2004 to $15 million in 2005 to $10 million in 2006.

* EAB attacks all species of ash, and only ash. It kills all trees that it attacks regardless of size or health. Wisconsin has black ash, green ash, and white ash. Wisconsin's forest resource totals about 717 million ash trees. Thirty percent of all Wisconsin urban street trees are ash.

* Survey is difficult. At present girdling trees, leaving them stand for a full year or two, and then cutting and stripping the bark is **the** survey tool. Once symptoms are noted on a tree, the tree has been infested for about 4 years.

* Control is difficult, costly and unpopular. Currently, once an infestation is found and the boundaries delimited, a ½ mile radius is marked around the most outlying infested trees. All ash trees within this radius outside the infestation as well as all trees within the infested area are removed.

* It is difficult to limit the spread. Limiting natural spread is difficult but preventing artificial spread is even more difficult. Firewood, nursery stock and logs may carry infestations. Firewood has been the most prevalent problem. Misdemeanor fines range from $400 to $10,000. Criminal penalties may go as high as $250,000 and include jail time.

Activities in Infested States

Michigan

* Eradication treatments occur only within 50 miles of Mackinaw Bridge and Illinois border. Three sites are currently in progress with two more potential sites near the Mackinaw Bridge.

* No hardwood firewood may be moved from the Lower Peninsula, no ash wood onto state land, no movement of ash products or non-coniferous firewood from quarantined to regulated areas within the Lower Peninsula. MDA is training staff to write tickets if they come across a violation.

Indiana

* In January 2006, IDNR ended eradication efforts as a primary management tool and will no longer require nor fund the removal of trees in an infested area. This decision was based on limited federal funding for EAB eradication and the difficulty of determining infestation boundaries for eradication projects. The IDNR will continue to survey and monitor EAB infestations to support quarantines and management guidance to landowners.

* Under current regulations once an EAB infestation is confirmed the entire county becomes quarantined. To give the quarantine an enhanced success rate, the infested township(s) where EAB was found will be quarantined creating a 'quarantine-within-a-quarantine' in which ash parts

and products may not be moved from the infested township(s), not even into the remainder of the quarantine without certified paperwork form IDNR or USDA.

Ohio

* As of February 15, 2006, Ohio will engage in eradication efforts only in extreme outlier infestations as federal funding becomes available. This is a departure from earlier efforts to eradicate all infestations. Ohio had estimated a need for $24 million in federal funds for 2006 but received only $1.25 million.

* Non-coniferous firewood and ash tree materials must not be removed from quarantined areas of Ohio. Violators may be fined up to $4,000.

Ontario

* Ontario is phasing out eradication efforts except where sites are distant from the front of infestation and well defined. They don't think that their ability to target colonies on the real front is adequate and that eradication efforts may be 30 or miles behind the real front of establishment. As of January 19, 2006 the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has continued to survey for EAB and quarantine affected areas.

* Movement of ash materials and firewood within and from these areas is regulated, in order to slow the spread of the pest.

Current Efforts in Wisconsin

* A response plan has been written by DATCP and DNR staff with input from USDA-APHIS, USDA–Forest Service and UW-Madison and numerous stakeholders. It is in the review process.

* Detection surveys have occurred in state, national, county and private campgrounds and urban industrial areas. More surveys are planned for 2006.

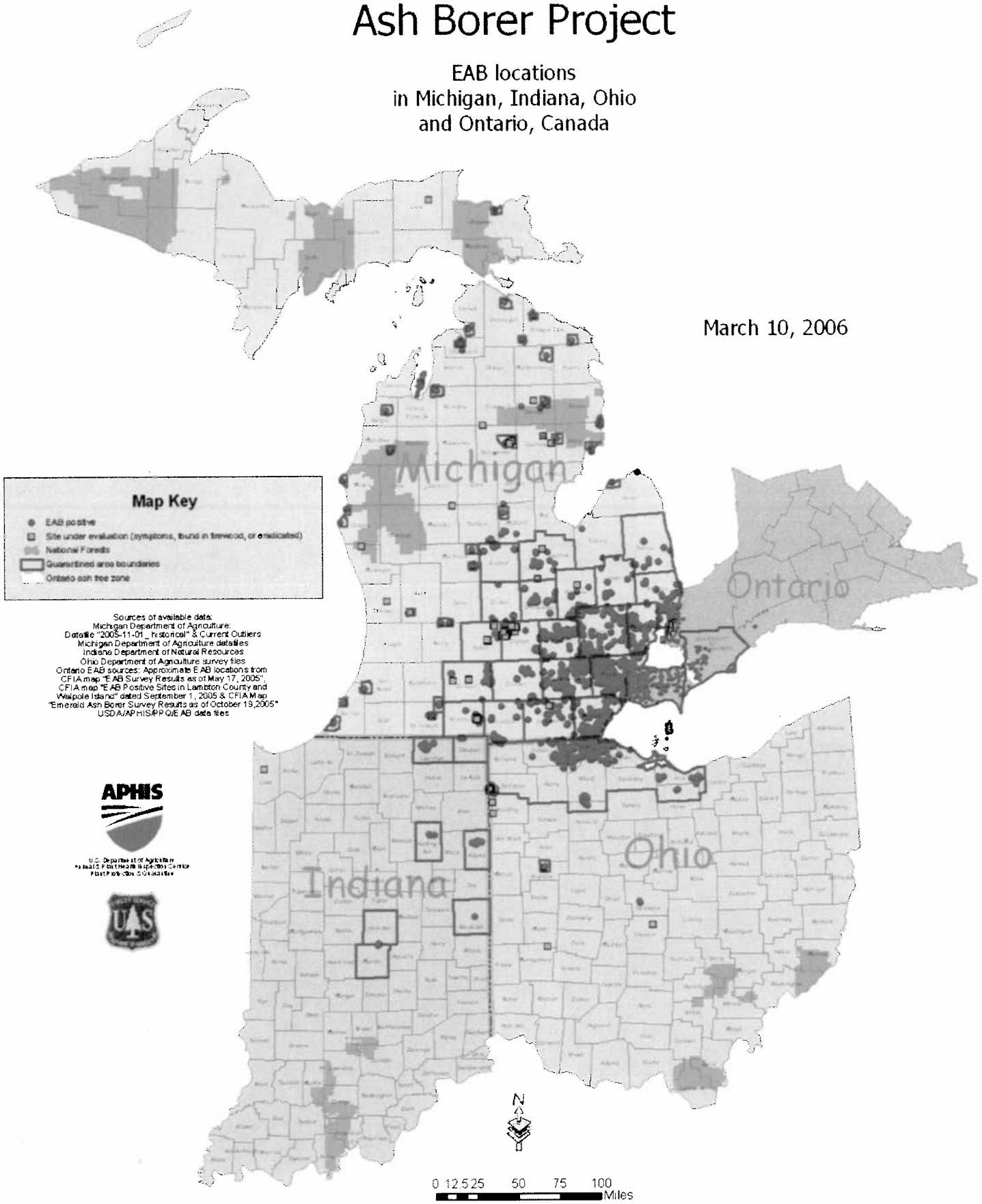
* Hearings were held for ATCP 21, the rule that is designed to limit the artificial movement of EAB. The final draft rule will go to the DATCP Board in May 2006.

* Stakeholders are in involved in the planning process through presentations, simulation exercises workshops and meetings. Those include: paper and pulp producers, timber related industries, forestry, urban foresters, arborists, the nursery growers, the green industry, tribes, county agents, federal agencies, private campground owners and others.

Cooperative Emerald Ash Borer Project

EAB locations
in Michigan, Indiana, Ohio
and Ontario, Canada

March 10, 2006



USDA/APHIS/PPQ
March 2006
map by dbopp

Emerald Ash Borer

Frequently Asked Questions about the Emerald Ash Borer February, 2006

1. **Where did the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) come from?** The native range of EAB is eastern Russia, northern China, Japan and Korea.

2. **When was EAB first discovered in North America?** EAB was first identified in southeast Michigan in 2002. It likely arrived several years earlier.

3. **How did it get to North America?** We don't know exactly, but it most likely traveled in ash wood used for stabilizing cargo in ships or for packing consumer products.

4. **Where is EAB now?** As of January, 2006, EAB had been found in Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, and Ontario, Canada. It also appears that small infestations have been eradicated from Virginia and Maryland. EAB has not been detected in Wisconsin.

5. **How does EAB harm ash trees?** The larval stage of EAB feeds under the bark of trees, cutting off the flow of water and nutrients. Infested trees gradually die over a 2-4 year period.

6. **Which trees are susceptible?** All sizes and even very healthy ash trees can be killed. All of Wisconsin's native ash trees (green, white and black ash), as well as many horticultural cultivars (cultivated varieties of ash or hybrids between species of ash), are susceptible to EAB infestation. Research studies are ongoing to test for resistance in various cultivars with the hope that some may survive an infestation.

7. **How important are ash trees to Wisconsin?** There are approximately 717 million ash trees scattered throughout Wisconsin's forests. Ash is also a very common street tree. Ash serves as an important species in our northern and southern forests and is a key component of forests growing in wet areas including swamps and along river ways.

8. **What does EAB look like?** The adult beetle is dark metallic green and about one-half inch long.

9. **How does EAB spread?** EAB moves short distances by flying and longer distances through movement of infested ash. Adults typically do not fly far from where they emerge, but this depends on the availability of food (ash trees). In Michigan, studies have shown that the vast majority of insects fly only several hundred yards from where they emerge. EAB is most commonly spread long distances through the movement of infested firewood, nursery stock or ash logs.

10. **What is being done about EAB?** There is a national effort to limit the spread and impact of EAB. A national plan, coordinated by the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), guides what federal, state and local officials must do to manage this insect. Infested areas are quarantined, which means that selected materials such as ash firewood, nursery stock, and ash logs may not be moved out of infested areas. Eradication of outlying infestations, where all ash within ½ mile of infested trees are cut and destroyed, is being implemented in many areas.

11. **What is being done in Wisconsin?** The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) is currently leading efforts to detect, plan for and regulate the movement of EAB into and within Wisconsin. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR), U.S. Forest Service, DATCP and the University of Wisconsin have conducted detection surveys of areas deemed high risk for introduction of EAB. These include camping areas and locations where ash trees may have been planted within the last 10 years. Public information and education efforts are focusing on reporting possible sightings of EAB and limiting movement of firewood.

12. **Is there anything I can do now to protect the ash trees in my yard from EAB?** There are chemical treatments available to protect ash trees from EAB, but they are not 100 percent effective. If EAB is found in Wisconsin, the current plan calls for all trees within one-half mile of infested trees to be removed. Chemically-treated trees will also be cut and destroyed if they fall within this eradication zone. The decision to treat is a personal preference, but as long as eradication is planned, treated trees will not be given any special consideration. ***The state strategy is guided by the national EAB Science Advisory Panel and its success relies heavily on federal funds. The state's strategy will be constantly evaluated and may change based on new science-based management options, available funding, and any national strategic changes.***

13. **If I have ash in my woods, should I be doing anything?** Since EAB has not been detected in Wisconsin you need not change your scheduled timber management activities. During regularly scheduled harvest activities, consider maintaining ash at no more than 5-10 trees per acre or at the minimum basal area allowable by your forest management plan. If EAB reaches your stand, the lower density will reduce the economic impact and may slow the spread of the insect. If EAB is found in Wisconsin, areas close to infestations (but outside of eradication areas) may benefit from accelerating ash harvest activities to reduce the amount of food or host material available for the insect. Management options are currently being developed; check with your DNR forest health specialist for the most up-to-date information.

14. **Should I still consider planting ash in hardwood forest plantations?** Consider limiting ash to 10 percent of the total species mix. Diversity is the key.

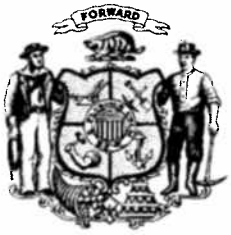
15. **Is ash still a viable choice when considering what to plant in my yard?** In general, having a diversity of species in your yard, on your street or in your community is your best defense against all tree health problems. If ash comprises 10 percent or more of the tree species in your local area, it would be best to choose an alternative. Ongoing studies are testing native ash and cultivars for resistance to EAB feeding injury. Results are preliminary; resistant cultivars may be available at a future date. Check with your state or county horticultural extension agent for the latest information.

16. **What can I do to help?** Educate yourself on how to recognize signs and symptoms of EAB. Two excellent sources of information may be found at www.emeraldashborer.info and http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives. Report possible sightings of EAB by calling 1-800-462-2803. Do not move firewood. Purchase or cut all firewood from the same general location where you plan to use it. When camping or at a cabin, do not take any leftover firewood home with you.

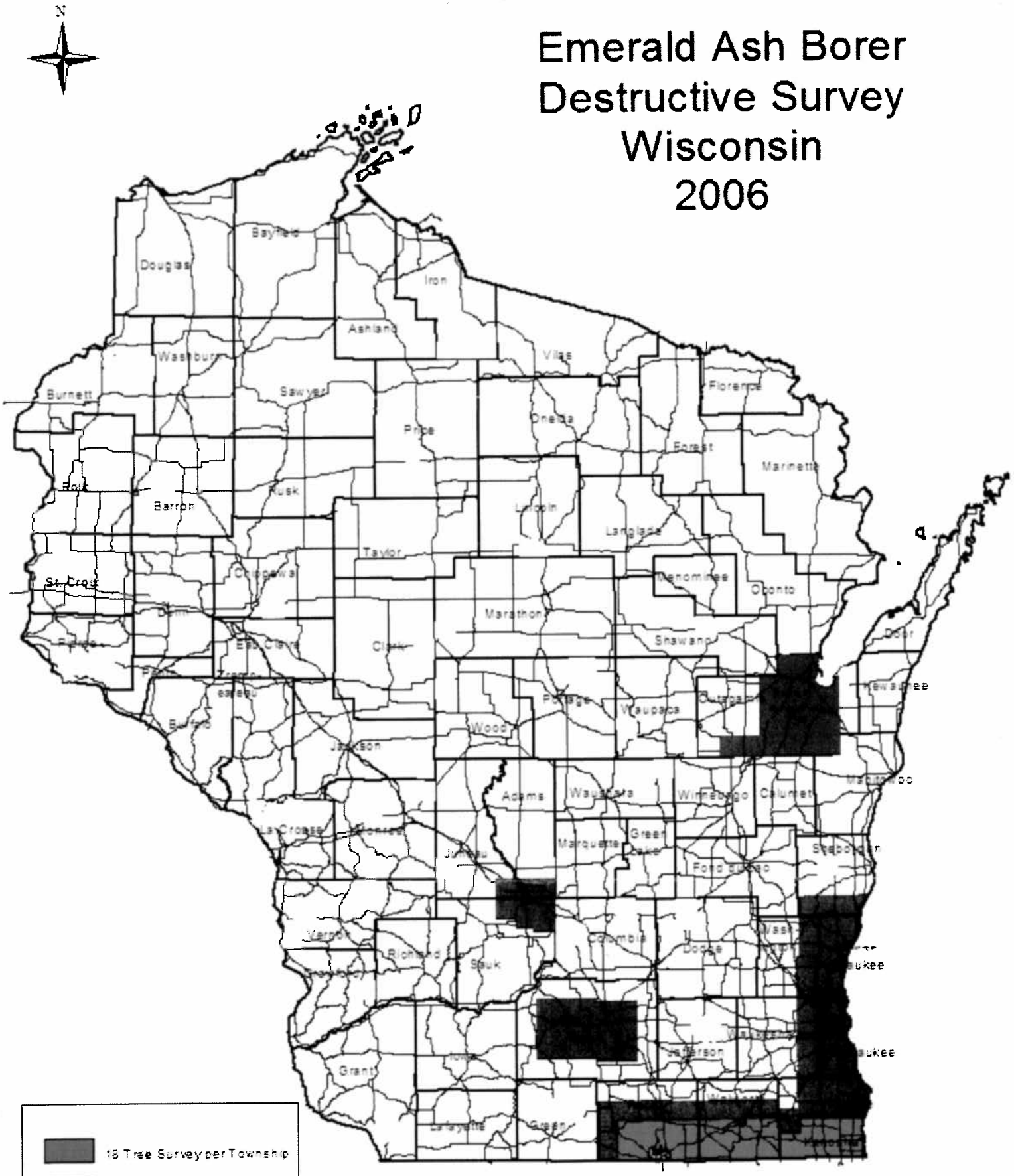
Keep Wisconsin's Forests Healthy
Watch Out for EAB!

ARM PUB 156


WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE


FORWARD

Emerald Ash Borer Destructive Survey Wisconsin 2006



Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection 8/06

State of Wisconsin
Jim Doyle, Governor

Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
Rod Nilsestuen, Secretary

Department of Natural Resources
Scott Hassett, Secretary

October 6, 2006

Dear Concerned Legislators:

This is a follow-up to our letter to you earlier this year regarding our continuing efforts to prepare for the arrival of emerald ash borer (EAB). Certainly, the recent discovery of EAB in Illinois has heightened the public awareness of EAB and the urgent need to be prepared.

We have continued to monitor the situation in Michigan, Ohio, Illinois, Indiana and Ontario and have completed our response plan based on other states' experiences and the EAB national science advisory panel's report. This plan details our response to finding EAB and the eradication effort that we plan to follow.

Activities that are new or accomplished since our last correspondence are as follows.

Staffing
USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has provided federal funding for the following positions within DATCP for 9 months:

1. Program Coordinator (permanent) – planning, coordination, interagency liaison.
2. Education/Outreach (permanent) – public information and education, stakeholder outreach.
3. Surveyors (2) (project) – location and mapping of target sample and detection trees.
4. Office Operations Assistant (project) – program assistance related to administration and operations of the survey staff.
5. Cutting crew members (16-20 LTEs) – felling trees, bark stripping, larvae collection.

The Program Coordinator has been hired and the hiring process is underway for the Education/Outreach position. We are also moving forward with the project and LTE positions. While we are taking the necessary steps to fill permanent and project positions, LTEs are currently marking detection trees in southeastern Wisconsin.

DATCP will utilize federal funding for proactive EAB activities. The first and largest component will consist of destructive sampling of ash trees and the establishment of a set of detection trees. In survey areas that include municipalities, municipal foresters that have been certified for EAB survey work may participate in this program. A nominal fee of $150 per tree will be provided for this work to selected municipalities in the survey area by the USDA cooperative agreement.

The second component will consist of a public outreach and education effort, to increase public awareness of EAB and encourage public involvement in detection and prevention awareness. Public involvement has been critical in detection of EAB in other states. The goal of outreach and education is to strongly discourage the movement of firewood from outside Wisconsin into

our state. This will be accomplished through highway billboards on main arteries into the state as well as posters and flyers distributed at campgrounds and highway rest areas. Radio ads may be used on stations of neighboring states with high tourist traffic into Wisconsin, and within the state to increase awareness.

1. Activities focused on prevention

Detection and monitoring surveys

Survey efforts in 2006 focused on nurseries, firewood dealers, sawmills, state parks and forests, private and county campgrounds and areas in southeast, northeast and south-central Wisconsin where new construction may have included the planting of ash trees over the past 10 years. Firewood has been proven to be the greatest vehicle for movement of EAB. Therefore, this is of primary concern and we have focused much of our effort in this area. Contact was made with over 100 mills and firewood operations, and visual surveys were conducted at 65 sites identified as warranting visits.

Managing the movement of firewood

It is well established that the primary mode of long-range transport of EAB is through infested firewood. Over 200 private campgrounds were surveyed in 2006 and detection trees were established in 25 locations known to be at high risk for the introduction of EAB. The Natural Resources Board approved an emergency rule in March 2006 that prohibits out-of-state firewood on DNR-managed properties. This emergency rule was implemented and resulted in the confiscation of over 73 bundles of firewood at Wisconsin state parks and forests. A permanent rule that would further restrict the movement of firewood that is destined for DNR-managed properties is currently under legislative committee review. DNR and DATCP have been working with partners such as members of the Wisconsin Association of Campground Owners, USDA Forest Service land managers and county forest managers to expand these activities to non state-owned lands.

Developing rules that will facilitate regulation once EAB is detected

The DATCP rule that regulates the import or intrastate movement of firewood, nursery stock, trees, logs, bark chips, and any lumber or wood with bark attached from EAB infested areas will become effective November 1st. This will allow DATCP to impose quarantines to minimize the potential spread of EAB once it has been found in Wisconsin.

The DNR will also be developing an emergency rule followed by a permanent rule as directed by WI Act 166, Section 23.114 to specify emergencies over which the chief state forester shall have management authority on department owned lands. This will allow for more clarity for the management of emergencies if immediate action is necessary to address a catastrophic event. This emergency rule is targeted for the January Natural Resources Board meeting.

Public education and outreach

Education and outreach has focused on detection and reporting sightings of EAB and limiting the movement of firewood. The DNR, UW-Extension, and DATCP have web pages on EAB. Here are the links:

DNR: http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/Forestry/FH/Ash/index.htm
UW-Extension: http://www.entomology.wisc.edu/emeraldashborer/
DATCP: http://www.datcp.state.wi.us/arm/environment/insects/emerald-ash-borer/index.jsp

DATCP has a toll-free telephone number (1-800-462-2803) printed on ID cards for reporting potential sightings. DATCP has received over 565 phone calls and made over 50 follow-up site visits.

The DNR has received about 50 phone calls from citizens with concerns about EAB and made approximately 25 site visits. UW and DNR have created posters on EAB that have been distributed to state parks and made available to private campgrounds. Ads have been placed in magazines such as the Wisconsin Association of Campground Owners and in 2006 hunting and boating registration materials. Presentations on detection of EAB have been given to numerous groups such as the Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association; Wisconsin Arborists Association; Wisconsin Green Industry Federation; utility, state, private and industrial foresters; loggers and master gardeners; and various urban communities including Beloit, Eau Claire and Milwaukee. We have also mailed EAB materials to firewood producers and dealers in Wisconsin and asked for their assistance in keeping potential EAB containing wood out of Wisconsin. Several news releases and radio spots have also been produced.

2. Activities focused on planning

Interagency Planning

An interagency planning team representing DNR, DATCP, APHIS, UW-Extension and USDA Forest Service was formed in 2003. This group has met numerous times to plan public information and outreach efforts, detection and survey activities, and eradication efforts. The response plan is complete and available on the DATCP website. The strategic plan is being prepared. DATCP will be the lead agency for eradication and quarantine activities. A unified command approach, using the Incident Command System, is planned for the eradication program.

Three "table top" exercises, where key partners practice responding to an EAB find, have been held. Partners have included selected municipal foresters, arborists, nursery and landscape personnel, federal land managers, tribal members, UW-Extension agents, and representatives of the wood utilization industry.

A wood utilization group has been formed to plan options for utilizing infested ash trees. This group is meeting with various partners in the wood utilization industry (pulp and paper, sawmill, wood residue brokers, loggers, municipal foresters and arborists) to help plan for the movement

and destruction or utilization of infested ash trees. The first meeting was held with pulp and paper industry representatives in November 2005 and the second meeting with sawmill industry representatives was held in May 2006.

We have participated in numerous tribal meetings in 2006 concerning EAB. Individual meetings are planned with each tribe. APHIS and the USDA Forest Service have also met with all federal land managers in Wisconsin to coordinate firewood management efforts and discuss detection methods.

3. Activities focused on future management

New initiatives

Discussions with industry have revealed a need for a more detailed inventory of the ash resource. The current level of inventory is adequate for illustrating a very general distribution pattern for ash but will not provide the information needed for planning any utilization activities. Discussions are currently underway with UW research scientists regarding the use of remote sensing and modeling to upgrade our ash inventory.

In spite of ongoing research activities, there is a significant lack of knowledge on the biology and management of EAB. Prior to its identification in Michigan, virtually no research had been conducted. Scientists are struggling to develop short- and long-term management options based on minimal information related to biological and chemical control, population dynamics, impact of various silvicultural management activities and detection techniques. The scientific community is conducting a significant research effort to develop more effective survey and eradication methods to combat EAB. Funds to support research are being pursued through various sources.

The DNR silviculture committee has developed a draft set of silvicultural guidelines in an effort to provide guidance to landowners on options for mitigating the effects of EAB. These guidelines are expected to be completed by the end of 2006.

Thank you for your continued interest and concern related to EAB. We can assure you that we will continue to be proactive in addressing this threat and will consider all options for management.

Sincerely,

Rod Nilsestuen, Secretary
Department of Agriculture,
Trade and Consumer Protection

Scott Hassett, Secretary
Department of Natural Resources

For further details on any of these activities, please feel free to contact the following individuals:
DNR: Jane Cummings Carlson, 608-275-3273. jane.cummings-carlson@dnr.state.wi.us;
DATCP: Melody Walker, 608-224-4586, melody.walker@datcp.state.wi.us